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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/690,326	10/16/2000	Stuart Edward Jones	G&C 30566.107-US-11	3477

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EXAMINER

LUDWIG, MATTHEW J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2178

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/690,326

Applicant(s)

JONES ET AL.

Examiner

Matthew J. Ludwig

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 October 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/22/01.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: application filed 10/16/00.
2. Claims 1-39 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 14, and 27, are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Plantz et al., USPN 6,088,702 filed (2/25/1998) in view of Doherty, 'Project-Specific Web Sites', Interiors, March 1998. Vol. 157. Iss. 3.**

In reference to independent claim 1, Plantz teaches:

If approved username and password data are supplied by the user, access to a menu of topics, subtopic, or chapters for which the author is authorized to contribute is provided along with a selection to view or edit the selected document (compare to "*the server site has defined user access permission*"). See column 9, lines 27-34. An administrator invokes the group publishing system administrative control center, which could be accomplished from a separate computer. See column 11, lines 1-7. The process suggests similar client server techniques as those claimed within the limitation of the independent claim.

It is unclear to the Examiner what defines the '*simplified procedures*' of the API. An HTML-based word-processing system that allows instant downloading of text to existing pre-

Art Unit: 2178

press formats, such as Quark or Pagemaker, and uploading of pictures, graphics, video or audio data in any format, suggests '*simplified procedures*' invoked by an application program.

An Internet-based word-processing and editing Group Publishing System (GPS) for documents that allows updating of documents for all authorized users (compare to "*invoked procedures obtain a connection across the internet between the application program with appropriate user access permissions on the client and the server site*"). See column 5, lines 24-30.

For purposes of logical disclosure of the GPS of the invention, publication projects are described as encompassing three key categories: (1) data storage and retrieval, (2) project management and (3) editing. The data storage disclosed suggests a similar function as a container. The storage facility taught by Plantz allows for the management of project information. The reference further discloses the GPS which provides a control window or interface, which allows the user to edit the document according to a style specified by the overall administrator of the GPS assembled project, to edit only a part of the document or to select additional modules which facilitate uploading of other data, such as pictures, video, or audio, however, the Plantz fails to explicitly disclose architectural project information, which includes drawings, documents, communications, and tasks related to the architectural projects. Doherty teaches project members of the one or more projects including defining access permissions for project members to access the project folders, drawings, and text files. Furthermore, Doherty teaches a means for accessing architectural project information using an interactive web site hosted on a server. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Plantz and Doherty before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the

Art Unit: 2178

collaborative environment methods taught by Plantz to include the architectural information of Doherty, because it would have extended the project information control of multiple users in the implementation of an interactive collaborative website.

In reference to dependent claim 2,

If approved username and password data are supplied by the user, access to a menu of topics, subtopic, or chapters for which the author is authorized to contribute is provided along with a selection to view or edit the selected document (compare to "*the server site has defined user access permission*"). See column 9, lines 27-34. An administrator invokes the group publishing system administrative control center, which could be accomplished from a separate computer. See column 11, lines 1-7. The process suggests similar client server techniques as those claimed within the limitation of the independent claim.

For purposes of logical disclosure of the GPS of the invention, publication projects are described as encompassing three key categories: (1) data storage and retrieval, (2) project management and (3) editing. The data storage disclosed suggests a similar function as a container. The storage facility taught by Plantz allows for the management of project information. The reference further discloses the GPS which provides a control window or interface, which allows the user to edit the document according to a style specified by the overall administrator of the GPS assembled project, to edit only a part of the document or to select additional modules which facilitate uploading of other data, such as pictures, video, or audio, however, the Plantz fails to explicitly disclose architectural project information, which includes drawings, documents, communications, and tasks related to the architectural projects. Doherty teaches project members of the one or more projects including defining access permissions for

Art Unit: 2178

project members to access the project folders, drawings, and text files. Furthermore, Doherty teaches a means for accessing architectural project information using an interactive web site hosted on a server. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Plantz and Doherty before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the collaborative environment methods taught by Plantz to include the architectural information of Doherty, because it would have extended the project information control of multiple users in the implementation of an interactive collaborative website.

In reference to dependent claim 3, Plantz teaches:

Upon selection of document topics to be viewed, a new display window is displayed on the user's monitor. The user is provided with the options of viewing documents by selection from a menu of subtopics. The menu options and separate and distinct windows suggest similar functions as that of a wizard, which provide help to user selections. See column 8, lines 40-45.

In reference to dependent claim 4, Plantz teaches:

The GPS provides a control window or interface, which allows the user to edit the document according to a style specified by the overall administrator of the GPS assembled project, to edit only a part of the document, or to select additional modules which facilitate uploading of the other data. See column 7, lines 36-42.

In reference to dependent claim 5, Plantz teaches:

The GPS provides a control window or interface, which allows the user to edit the document according to a style specified by the overall administrator of the GPS assembled project, to edit only a part of the document, or to select additional modules which facilitate uploading of the other data. See column 7, lines 36-42.

Art Unit: 2178

In reference to dependent claim 6, Plantz teaches:

A top level of the system is accessed by linking to the uniform resource locator (URL) for the project to be authored or edited. As is by now well known in the art, the URL is an address for a unique file or set of files hosted on a particular server, linked to the Internet. See column 8, lines 1-7.

In reference to dependent claim 7, Plantz teaches:

Allows the administrator to change or delete and topic that is currently available in the topic database; facilitates entrance of new topics to the GPS topic database. See column 11, lines 39-42.

In reference to dependent claim 8-10, Plantz teaches:

The GPS provides a control window, or interface, which allows the user to edit the document according to a style specified by the overall administrator of the GPS assembled project, to edit only a part of the document, or to select additional modules, which facilitate uploading of other data. See column 7, lines 37-45. The reference does not explicitly state locking and unlocking files; however, the administrator does provide a means of allowing specific user to edit and preventing others from editing, which suggest a similar technique as locking and unlocking document/files.

In reference to dependent claim 11, Plantz teaches:

The user next has the option of specifying whether they are an "author" or an "editor". Selection of the "author" option, initiates a GPS subroutine calling for the authorized author to supply their username and password. See column 9, lines 25-35.

In reference to dependent claim 12, Plantz teaches:

To prevent unauthorized access, the GPS requires each user to provide a username and a password to access the editing module of the system. Once an editing session is in progress, the system allows no other user to access the editing module for that document, or edited document segment. See column 7, lines 30-37.

In reference to dependent claim 13, Plantz teaches:

The GPS includes a means for tracking all document information, including but not limited to all information necessary to reproduce the document. In addition to document content, this information includes, but is not limited to, style and layout rules, spelling dictionaries and information obtained by following links and cross-references to other publications. See column 55-62.

In reference to claims 14-26, the claims reflect the methods comprising instructions used for performing similar limitations to those of the apparatus claims, 1-25, respectively, and in further view of the following, are rejected along the same rationale.

In reference to claims 27-39, the claims reflect the article of manufacture embodying an application program interface used for performing similar limitations to those of the apparatus claims, 1-25, respectively, and in further view of the following, are rejected under similar rationale.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Art Unit: 2178

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew J. Ludwig whose telephone number is 703-305-8043. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on 703-308-5465. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ML
September 16, 2004

Stephen S. Hong
STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER
~~STEPHEN S. HONG~~
~~PRIMARY EXAMINER~~